

Bighorn Sheep Specific Information

Definition

- Adult ewe - a female bighorn sheep - one year old or older. Lambs (young of year) are not included.

Licenses & General Information

- License holders may legally take one bighorn sheep, subject to all specifications on the license issued.
- Bighorn ram horns greater than one-half curl must be plugged or pinned at any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office within 10 days after harvest. A listing of designated personnel and phone numbers will be provided to all bighorn sheep license holders.
- It is illegal to possess a bighorn sheep head picked up in the wild.
- There are limited and unlimited bighorn sheep licenses.
 - **Limited Licenses** - A limited bighorn sheep license is awarded only through the special drawing and are designed to limit the number of hunters in a specific hunting district(s). Hunters may apply for one limited license area only and it must be their first and only district choice, with the exception of an adult ewe which may be listed as a second district choice.
 - An applicant who receives a limited either sex or legal ram license is not eligible to apply for or receive another either-sex or legal ram bighorn sheep license for the next succeeding seven years. For example, if you received one of the limited either sex or legal ram bighorn sheep licenses in 2000, you may not receive or apply for another either-sex or legal ram bighorn sheep license until 2008.
 - **Unlimited Licenses** - Unlimited bighorn sheep licenses have no limit on the number of licenses sold and may be available from License Providers, including FWP Online Licensing or, the hunter has the option of applying by the May 1 deadline through the drawing process.
 - Unlimited bighorn sheep licenses are available in districts 300, 303, 500 and 501.
 - An unlimited bighorn sheep license purchased through the special drawing must be listed as your first and only district choice.
 - Unlimited bighorn sheep license districts with harvest quotas sometimes close a few days after the opening date.
 - Licenses are nonrefundable and a hunter may not change the selected hunting district, even if a district closes before the hunter has participated in a hunt.
 - An applicant who receives a unlimited legal ram license and harvests a legal ram is not eligible to receive or apply for another bighorn sheep license for the next succeeding seven years.
 - Unlimited bighorn sheep hunting districts are assigned a harvest quota. Unlimited bighorn sheep license hunting districts will close on a 48-hour notice. When the quota is reached or approached, the bighorn sheep season in that district will close. Any ram harvested by a hunter will be counted against the quota.
 - Current harvest information may be obtained by calling the appropriate Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters during normal business hours.
 - The department makes an attempt, through news releases and back country contacts, to inform hunters of bighorn sheep hunting district closures. However, it is the hunter's responsibility to be aware of season status.

SuperTag Lottery for Bighorn Sheep

- Resident and nonresident hunters can buy an unlimited number of \$5 chances to win a Montana hunting license for bighorn sheep, as well as a moose, mountain goat, deer and elk. An individual may be successful in winning one or a combination of these SuperTags per year. Each SuperTag license allows one to hunt in any Montana hunting district valid for that species. Chances are sold electronically at all FWP License Providers or via the Internet. Proceeds from the sale of SuperTag chances will enhance public hunting access and boost FWP enforcement efforts. For more information visit FWP's website at fwp.mt.gov.

Bighorn Sheep License Auction

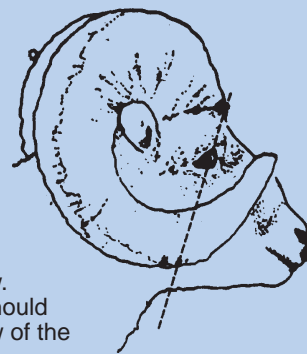
- Legislation authorizes the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission to provide for the auction of a bighorn sheep license each year. This license authorizes the hunter to take a "legal" or greater ram in any district of his/her choice. This license is not a part of the seasons proposed, and if this license holder is successful, the bighorn sheep will not be counted against the hunting district quota. The license holder may only hunt in areas open to hunting (i.e., if an unlimited area closes due to reaching the quota, the license holder may not hunt in that area).
- The auction is held annually during the winter by a conservation organization that is preselected by the FWP Commission.
- Hunting is authorized for the next hunting season, not the current year's hunting season.
- Money raised through the bighorn sheep license auction is used for management of bighorn sheep.

Bighorn Sheep Mandatory Reporting Requirements

- A hunter harvesting a bighorn sheep with a license valid for a "legal ram" must not alter the head and horns as to affect determination of legality.
- A hunter harvesting a bighorn ram must personally present the complete head and cape intact within 48-hours to any Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, game warden, or designated employee in the administrative region where the bighorn ram was taken. At that time, a transportation permit will be issued. See back cover for FWP office phone numbers.

Judging A "Legal Ram" 3/4 Curl

- When a straight line extending from the front base of the horn through any portion of the eye opening intercepts any portion of the horn, the ram is legal. If the horn is not long enough to be intercepted by the line, the ram is not legal.
- Base of the horn shall be considered as the point where the horn meets the hairline of the head. See illustration below.
- Determination of a legal ram should be made from a broadside view of the head.
- Successful applicants for bighorn sheep should contact the department if they need the Montana Guide to Bighorn Sheep.



Bighorn Sheep HD Regulations

Residents are eligible to apply for any of the following licenses. Nonresidents are restricted to certain districts. Nonresidents are limited to, but not guaranteed 10 percent of a region's quota. **Districts where nonresidents may apply are listed on the moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat nonresident application, but may change when final quotas are set in June.**

100-00: 1 license
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 101 -----
– CLOSED.

102-00: 1 license
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 121 -----

121-00: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 122 -----

122-00: 6 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
122-30: 4 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 123 -----

123-00: 4 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
123-30: 1 license
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 124 -----

124-00: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
124-30: 20 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 203 -----

203-00: 3 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
203-30: 5 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 210 -----

210-00: 4 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
210-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 212 -----

212-00: 1 license
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 213 -----

213-00: 6 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
213-30: 5 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 216 -----

216-00: 4 licenses
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
216-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 250 -----

250-00: 2 licenses. Valid in portion of HD south of Nez Perce Rd and West Fork Rd.

• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.
250-10: 1 license. Valid in portion of HD north of Nez Perce Rd and West Fork Rd.
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep.

261-00: 3 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 261 -----

270-00: 14 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 270 -----

270-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 283 -----

283-00: 3 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

283-30: 5 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 300 -----

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

300-20: Unlim licenses
• Sep 01 - Sep 10 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.

----- HD 301 -----
– CLOSED.

----- HD 302 -----
– CLOSED.

----- HD 303 -----

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

303-20: Unlim licenses. Deckard Flats-Eagle Crk portion of HD 303 as posted, subject to closure to all hunting on 24-hour notice.
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.

----- HD 304 -----

304-00: 1 license
• Sep 01 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 305 -----

305-10: 1 license
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 315 -----

315-00: 2 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 340 -----

– CLOSED.

----- HD 380 -----

380-00: 3 licenses
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

380-30: 3 licenses
• Sep 15 - Oct 31 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 381 -----

381-00: 1 license
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 421 -----

421-00: 2 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 422 -----

422-00: 7 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

422-30: 20 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 01 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 423 -----

423-00: 5 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

423-30: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 01 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- HD 424 -----

424-00: 10 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

424-30: 20 licenses
• Sep 15 - Nov 01 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- **HD 441** -----

441-00: 5 licenses

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- **HD 455** -----

455-00: 1 license

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- **HD 482** -----

482-00: 15 licenses

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

482-30: 15 licenses. Valid west of Power Plant Ferry Rd.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

482-31: 5 licenses. Valid east of Power Plant Ferry Rd.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

----- **HD 500** -----

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

500-20: Unlim licenses

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 2.

----- **HD 501** -----

Unlimited Bighorn Sheep License. Purchase or apply by May 1.

501-20: Unlim licenses. If a ram is taken east of Russel Crk and East Rosebud Crk, the season will close in that portion of the HD.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep. Harvest quota = 3.

----- **HD 503** -----

503-10: 3 licenses

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Legal ram Bighorn Sheep.

----- **HD 622** -----

622-00: 7 licenses. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Mickey-Brandon Buttes area and Iron Stake Ridge area.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

----- **HD 680** -----

680-00: 15 licenses. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Breaks along the Missouri River.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Either-sex Bighorn Sheep.

680-30: 25 licenses. Only valid east of the Stafford Ferry (Lloyd) Rd. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Breaks along the Missouri River.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

680-31: 15 licenses. Only valid west of the Stafford Ferry (Lloyd) Rd. Majority of bighorn sheep occur in Breaks along the Missouri River.

- Sep 15 - Nov 25 – Adult Ewe Bighorn Sheep.

Moose Hunting Districts Legal Descriptions

100-West Yaak: That portion of Lincoln County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning where the Kootenai River meets the Idaho border, then northerly along said border to the Canadian Border, then easterly along said border to the North Fork Yaak River, then southerly along said river to Yaak River Road 508, then southerly along said road to its junction with USFS Road 68 (Pipe Creek Road), then south along said road to Route 37, then southwest along said route to the south shore of the Kootenai River, then northwesterly along that shoreline to the Idaho border, the point of beginning.

101-Purcell: That portion of Lincoln County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning near Libby where the south shoreline of the Kootenai River meets Route 37, then northerly along said route to USFS Road 68 (Pipe Creek Road), then northerly along said road to USFS Road 508 (Yaak River Road), then northerly along said road to the North Fork Yaak River, then northerly along said river to the Canadian border, then easterly along said border to the east shore of Lake Koocanusa, then southerly along said shore to Libby Dam and the east shore of the Kootenai River, then southerly and westerly along same shore of the Kootenai River to Route 37 near Libby, the point of beginning.

102-Eureka: Those portions of Lincoln and Flathead Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning near Koocanusa Marina where USFS Road 835 (Cripple Horse Creek Road) meets the east shore of Lake Koocanusa, then northerly along said shore to the Canadian border, then easterly along said border to U.S. Highway 93, then southerly along said highway to the Kootenai-Flathead Forest boundary at Spring Creek Campground, then southwest along said boundary to USFS Road 3500 near Bowen Lake, then westerly along said road to USFS Road 36, then south along said road to USFS Road 835, then westerly along said road to the east shore of Lake Koocanusa, the point of beginning.

103-Ten Lakes: That portion of Lincoln County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of the USFS Road 900 (Stillwater River Road) and U.S. Highway 93, then northerly along said highway to the Canadian border, then easterly along said border to the Lincoln-Flathead County Line, then southerly along said line to Russky Creek Road 379, then southerly along said road to the USFS Road 900 (Stillwater River Road), then southwest along said road to U.S. Highway 93, the point of beginning.

104-West Cabinet Mountains: That portion of Lincoln County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning near the south end of Bull Lake where Route 56 intersects the Lincoln-Sanders County Line, from that point southwest along said line to the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along said border to the south shore of the Kootenai River, then southeasterly along said shore to a point just north of the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and Route 56, then south along said route to the Lincoln-Sanders County Line, the point of beginning.

105-East Cabinet Mountains: That portion of Lincoln County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Lincoln-Sanders County line intersects Route 56 just south of Bull Lake, then north along said

route to a point along the south shore of the Kootenai River just north of the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and Route 56, then southeasterly along the south shore of the Kootenai River to Route 37 near Libby, then south on said route to U.S. Highway 2, then southeasterly along said highway to the Lincoln-Sanders County line near Lower Thompson Lake, then westerly along said line to Route 56, the point of beginning.

106-Fisher River: Those portions of Lincoln and Flathead Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning near Libby at the junction of U.S. Highway 2 and Route 37, then northeasterly along said route to the south shore of the Kootenai River, then northeasterly along said shore to USFS Road 835 (Cripple Horse Creek Road), then easterly along said road to USFS Road 36 (Wolf Creek Road), then north along said road to USFS Road 3500, then easterly along said road to the Kootenai-Flathead National Forest boundary, then southeasterly along said boundary through Elk Mtn., Tepee Mtn., Sanders Mtn. and Grubb Mtn. to USFS Road 6799 (Elbow Creek Road), then south along said road to USFS Road 543 (Little Bitterroot Lake Road), then southeasterly along said road to U.S. Highway 2 then northwesterly along said highway to the junction with Route 37, the point of beginning.

110-North Fork: Those portions of Flathead and Lincoln Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the mouth of the North Fork of the Flathead River, then northerly up the river to the Canadian border, then westerly along said border to the divide between Weasel Creek and the North Fork of the Flathead River, then southerly along said divide to Russky Creek Road 379, then westerly along said road to USFS Road 900 (Stillwater River Road), then southerly along said road to U.S. Highway 93 at Stryker, then southerly along said highway to Route 40, then easterly along said route and U.S. Highway 2 to the Flathead River, then northerly along said river to the mouth of the North Fork of the Flathead River, the point of beginning.

111-Tally Lake: Those portions of Lincoln and Flathead Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning on the Flathead National Forest boundary at Spring Creek Campground on U.S. Highway 93, then in a southerly and westerly direction along said boundary to the divide between Sunday and Martin Creeks, then in a southerly direction along said divide to Elk Mountain, Tepee Mtn., Sanders Mtn., Grubb Mtn., and USFS Road 6799 (Elbow Creek Road), then southerly along said road to Pleasant Valley Road, then easterly along said road Little Bitterroot Lake Road, then southerly along said road to U.S. Highway 2, then easterly along said road and Route 35 to the Flathead River, then up said river to U.S. Highway 2, then westerly on said highway and Route 40 to U.S. Highway 93, then northerly on said highway to the Flathead National Forest boundary, the point of beginning.

NOTE: Stillwater Game Preserve closed to all hunting.

112-Blacktail: Those portions of Flathead and Lake Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the Thompson River County Road meets U.S. Highway 2, then southerly along the Thompson River Road to Shroder Creek Road and USFS Trail 137, the easterly along said road and trail